

Bibliography

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Australian Natural History Medallion 2013: Marilyn Hewish

The 2013 Australian Natural History Medallion has been awarded to Marilyn Hewish, who was nominated by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club.

Marilyn Hewish joined the Geelong Field Naturalists Club (GFNC) in 1982, and for more than 30 years has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to expanding knowledge of Australian natural history. Her interests are wide ranging but her field activities have focused mostly on Australian birds. In the past five years, she has developed expertise in the study of Victorian moths.

Marilyn has organised and participated in a number of surveys and bird counts. From 1985 to 1990, she coordinated the National Wader Counts, and in 1988 she coordinated the Victorian Summer Waterfowl Count at 472 wetlands. She has taken part in many other surveys including Orange-bellied Parrot Counts (since 1982), Hooded Plover Counts (since 1984), RAOU Wetland Surveys (1987–1992) and Wader Counts (since 1985), as well as wildlife Atlas projects for the RAOU (now Birdlife Australia) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Marilyn was a sub-editor for the Habitat and Movements sections for three volumes of the *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. She has compiled numerous reports for the RAOU, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Parks Victoria. She has also been involved as an author and editor in the publication of a number of books, including *Birds of the Long Forest*, of which she was the senior author. Long Forest is an isolated

mallee remnant 50 km from Melbourne and has birds typical of drier areas in north-west Victoria. The book combined her own survey data from 430 field visits, records from over 60 individuals and organisations, and data from literature sources back to the 1880s. It presents a complete current and historical record of the birds in this unique area of Victoria.

For 18 years (1991–2008), Marilyn was editor of the annual *Geelong Bird Report* (GBR), a series that is subscribed to by organisations across Australia and overseas. In the early years, bird observations were submitted through the GFNC Bird Group and published as part of the *Geelong Naturalist*. From 1993, the GBR was published as an independent magazine. Papers on birds were also published, often authored by Marilyn or by inexperienced authors who were guided by her. The GBR is an outstanding publication.

Marilyn has an enviable record in publishing her field studies. Since 1983 she has had about 60 articles published in the *Geelong Naturalist*, the majority of which have been on birds and bird behaviour. In addition, between April 2007 and December 2009 Marilyn wrote a monthly column in the *Geelong Naturalist* which covered topics as diverse as clouds, Killer Whales, solar eclipses, cicadas, moss, trees of the Geelong region, the moon, orchids and what naturalists should have in their backpacks.

Marilyn has given numerous talks and led bird-watching excursions for a wide range of ornithological, environmental and community groups. She has presented papers to many key groups in Victoria, interstate and overseas. In Victoria, she has made presentations in Geelong on many

occasions and has also spoken at meetings of Field Naturalist Clubs, Bird Observers Clubs and other groups in Ballarat, Colac, Bendigo, Warrnambool and Castlemaine. The topics covered are wide ranging and include survey results, bird-watching expeditions and trips, historical figures in Victorian birding and in-depth presentations on species or groups of birds. In particular, she has shared her special knowledge of the Long Forest with many people.

As a result of these wide-ranging activities, Marilyn's influence on a generation of Victorian bird enthusiasts has been substantial, and she has inspired and mentored both beginners and experienced naturalists.

In the last five years, Marilyn has changed her focus from birds to moths (Lepidoptera). In a short space of time, she has become a valued volunteer in the Museum Victoria Entomology Department. With Peter Marriott, she is sorting, identifying and cataloguing the Museum's moth collection and has led Lepidoptera teams on major surveys conducted by the Museum with Parks Victoria and the ABRIS. She has joined the

team of authors and editors producing the book series, *Moths of Victoria*, initiated by Peter Marriott. These books will eventually form a field guide covering all moth species in the state. She has collected specimens throughout Victoria for the Museum; amassed a photographic library of living moths of more than 1000 species; published papers and reports; and given talks and held night-time demonstrations of moth survey techniques for naturalist clubs and the general public, in which family groups are welcome. Her dedicated fieldwork has led to the discovery of several species new to science, first records for Victoria and major range extensions.

Marilyn is a Life Member of the GFNC, in recognition of her enduring efforts over more than 30 years to educate, inform and inspire others to an appreciation of natural history.

The Medallion was presented to Marilyn by the President of the Royal Society of Victoria, Dr Bill Birch AM, on 11 November 2013.

Gary Presland
Secretary
ANHM Committee

Australian Natural History Medallion Trust Fund

Since November 2012 donations to the Trust Fund have been gratefully received from the following:

Helen Aston	\$100	David Cheal	\$10
Julia Davis	\$10	Valda Dedman	\$5
William Fenner	\$10	Helen Handreck	\$10
Colin Hutchinson	\$5	Neil McFarlane	\$25
Juris Ozols	\$20	Carol Page	\$100
Geoff Patterson	5	Alan Reid	\$15
Jonathon Stevenson	\$25	Phyllis Western	\$10
Field Naturalists Club of Northern Territory			\$50
La Trobe Valley Field Naturalists Club			\$100
Royal Society of Victoria			\$250

If you would like to contribute to this fund, which supports the Australian Natural History Medallion, donations should be sent to: The Treasurer, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, P O Box 13, Blackburn, Victoria 3130. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Australian Natural History Medallion Trust Fund'.

The medallion is awarded annually to a person who is considered to have made the most significant contribution to the understanding of Australian natural history in the last ten years.

Gary Presland
Secretary, ANHM Committee